

A Checklist For House Problems Signs

Nobody wants a money pit. Here's a red flag cheat sheet to take with you on your house hunt.

Foundation

- ☐ Visible exterior cracks
- ☐ Cracks/uneven driveway or sidewalks
- ☐ Drainage not pointed away from the house
- ☐ Unlevel fascia boards
- ☐ Yard slopes toward the house
- ☐ Large trees with roots close to the foundation
- ☐ Cracks in walls (check interior and exterior)
- ☐ Floors visibly not level
- ☐ Window not square
- ☐ Wall corners not square
- ☐ Gaps on top of interior doors when closed
- ☐ Doors jam/won't latch

Water/Mold

- ☐ Bowed roof
- ☐ Water stains on walls
- ☐ Cracks around windows
- ☐ Visible mold
- ☐ Musty smell
- ☐ Missing caulking or tile in shower/bath
- ☐ No bathroom ventilation
- ☐ Wood rot around exterior doors and trim
- ☐ Peeling paint
- ☐ Leaking faucets, bath, or toilets

Roof

- ☐ Cupped, curled, or warped shingles
- ☐ Loss of granulation (you can check gutters)
- ☐ Cracked or broken tiles (if terra cotta)
- ☐ Missing sections
- ☐ Mismatched roof sections/repairs
- ☐ Ceiling stains
- ☐ Ceiling replacement seams

Electrical

- ☐ Exposed wires
- ☐ Wires with electrical tape
- ☐ Warm outlets
- ☐ Flickering lights
- ☐ Main panel is rusty/damaged

Plumbing

- ☐ Water stains under sinks
- ☐ Stains around the toilet
- ☐ Poor water pressure
- ☐ Screeching/rattling when turned on and off
- ☐ Drains empty slowly
- ☐ Foul odor from sink